

Amendments to the Drawings:

Fig 1 has been amended to include reference letters A, B and C as required by the Examiner, and Fig. 7 has been amended to show steps 3S1-3S5 as required by the Examiner.

Attachment: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes
 Replacement Sheets

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE DRAWINGS

Fig 1 has been amended to include reference letters A, B and C (which are also shown in Fig. 6) as required by the Examiner, and Fig. 7 has been amended to correct the step identifiers to 3S1-3S5 as required by the Examiner.

Submitted herewith are corrected sheets of formal drawings which incorporate the amendments and annotated sheets showing the changes made thereto.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the drawings be approved and entered, and that the Examiner's objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the data set includes medical image data and character information data that includes ID data identifying a patient.

In addition, claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 4, and claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 9.

Still further, claims 13 and 14 have been added to recite some additional features of processing the inputted data set of the present invention.

Finally, claims 1-9 and 12 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-9 and 12 and the addition of claims 13 and 14 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,002,798 ("Palmer et al"), and claims 5, 7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Palmer et al and USP 5,455,875 ("Chevion et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a character information collating apparatus for filing medical image data with ID data is provided which comprises: an inputting section to input medical image data and

character information data including ID data identifying a patient as a data set; an information memorizing section to memorize a plurality of data sets corresponding to a plurality of different patients, wherein the plurality of data sets include a plurality of different ID data identifying the plurality of different patients; and a retrieving section to retrieve the plurality of data sets memorized in the information memorizing section.

According to amended independent claim 1, moreover, when the inputting section inputs a data set including medical image data of a patient and ID data of the patient, the retrieving section judges whether the information memorizing section has already memorized a data set that includes the same ID data as the inputted ID data, and when the inputted ID is the same as previously memorized ID data, the inputted data set is correlated with the data set that includes said same ID data and the inputted medical image data is memorized as medical image data of the same patient as the memorized data set including said same ID data in the information memorizing section.

That is, the claimed present invention is directed to filing a medical image such that images corresponding to the same patient, and the same investigation for the same patient, are stored correctly. See the specification at page 4, lines 9-11.

As recognized by the Examiner, Palmer et al discloses storing document images and creating an index of the stored images.

It is respectfully pointed out, however that Palmer et al clearly does not relate to medical image data including patient ID data, in the manner of the present invention. See Fig. 5 of Palmer et al.

That is, Palmer et al discloses a word-based retrieval index that is created based on a type of document (abstract), whereas according to the claimed present invention medical image data of a patient is provided with ID data of the patient so that a plurality of images of the patient are filed with the same ID data.

It is respectfully submitted that the character information collating apparatus for filing medical image data with ID data according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 is not at all disclosed, taught or suggested by Palmer et al, or Chevion et al.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, as well as claims 2-9 and 12-14 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Palmer et al, taken singly or in combination with Chevion et al under 35 USC 102 or under 35 USC 103.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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BLOCK DIAGRAM SHOWING ONE EMBODIMENT OF
 STRUCTURES (1) - (11) OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

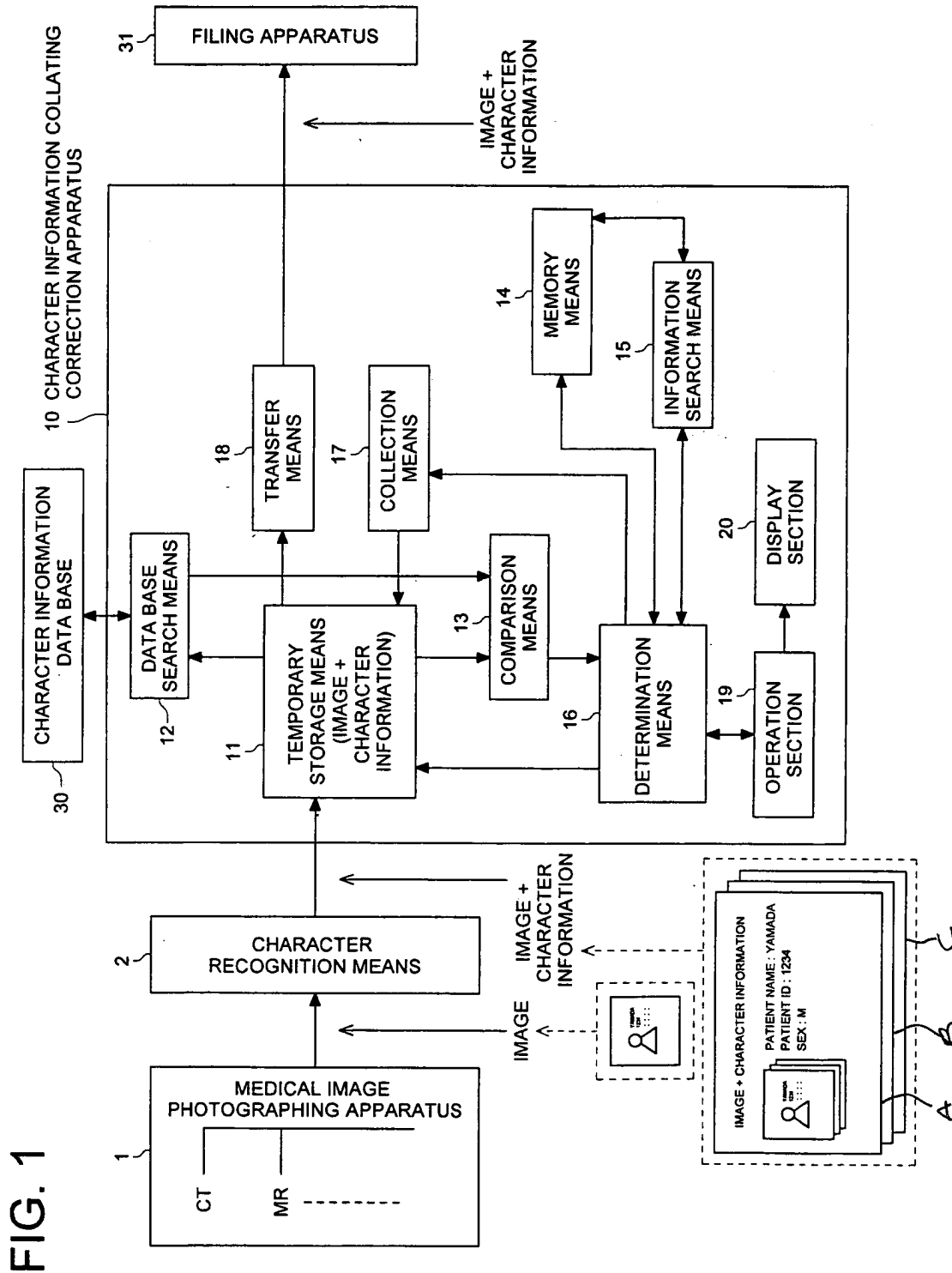




FIG. 7

FLOW CHART SHOWING OPERATIONS OF STRUCTURES
OF (12) - (15) OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

